

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing requests to an Input/Output (I/O) device, comprising:
  - queuing I/O requests directed to the I/O device in a first queue or a second queue;
  - determining whether a number of queued I/O requests in the second queue exceeds a threshold;
  - calculating a coalesce limit in response to determining that the number of queued I/O requests exceeds the threshold;
  - coalescing a number of queued I/O requests from the first queue not exceeding the calculated coalesce limit into a coalesced I/O request; and
  - transmitting the coalesced I/O request.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the calculated coalesce limit dynamically varies based in part on the number of queued I/O requests.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein calculating the coalesce limit includes dividing the number of queued I/O requests by an interval.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein coalescing the queued I/O requests comprises:
  - determining a maximum number of queued I/O requests up to the coalesce limit that are directed to data stored at sequential locations, wherein the determined I/O requests are coalesced into the coalesced I/O request, and wherein all the coalesced I/O requests are directed to data stored at sequential locations.
5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising:  
adding the transmitted coalesced I/O request to the second queue.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the first queue is maintained by a device driver in a computer memory and the second queue is implemented in a controller of the I/O device.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the controller comprises a storage controller and the I/O device comprises a storage device.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, further comprising:  
determining whether there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue after determining that the number of requests in the second queue exceeds the first queue, wherein I/O requests from the first queue are only coalesced if there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting one I/O request from the first queue if the number of queued I/O requests in the second queue does not exceed the threshold.
11. (Previously Presented) A system for managing requests to a storage device, wherein a storage controller manages access to the storage device, comprising:  
a processor;  
a memory device accessible to the processor and including a first queue and wherein the storage controller includes a second queue; and  
a device driver executed by the processor, wherein the device driver when executed causes operations to be performed, the operations comprising:  
(i) queue I/O requests directed to the storage device in the first queue in the memory device;  
(ii) determine whether a number of queued I/O requests in the second queue exceeds a threshold;

(iii) calculating a coalesce limit in response to determining that the number of queued I/O requests exceeds the threshold;

(iv) coalescing a number of queued I/O requests from the first queue not exceeding the calculated coalesce limit into a coalesced I/O request; and

(v) transmitting the coalesced I/O request.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the calculated coalesce limit dynamically varies based in part on the number of queued I/O requests.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein calculating the coalesce limit includes dividing the number of queued I/O requests by an interval.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein coalescing the queued I/O requests comprises:

determining a maximum number of queued I/O requests up to the coalesce limit that are directed to data stored at sequential locations, wherein the determined I/O requests are coalesced into the coalesced I/O request, and wherein all the coalesced I/O requests are directed to data stored at sequential locations.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[15]] 11, wherein the operations performed when executing the device driver further comprise:

determine whether there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue after determining that the number of requests in the second queue exceeds the first queue, wherein I/O requests from the first queue are only coalesced if there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the operations performed when executing the device driver further comprise:

transmit one I/O request from the first queue if the number of queued I/O requests in the second queue does not exceed the threshold.

18. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a device implementing code for managing requests to an Input/Output (I/O) device, wherein the code causes operations to be performed, the operations comprising:

    queuing I/O requests directed to the I/O device in a first queue or a second queue;  
    determining whether a number of queued I/O requests in the second queue exceeds a threshold;

    calculating a coalesce limit in response to determining that the number of queued I/O requests exceeds the threshold;

    coalescing a number of queued I/O requests from the first queue not exceeding the calculated coalesce limit into a coalesced I/O request; and

    transmitting the coalesced I/O request.

19. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the calculated coalesce limit dynamically varies based in part on the number of queued I/O requests.

20. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein calculating the coalesce limit includes dividing the number of queued I/O requests by an interval.

21. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein coalescing the queued I/O requests comprises:

    determining a maximum number of queued I/O requests up to the coalesce limit that are directed to data stored at sequential locations, wherein the determined I/O requests are coalesced into the coalesced I/O request, and wherein all the coalesced I/O requests are directed to data stored at sequential locations.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [[22]] 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

    adding the transmitted coalesced I/O request to the second queue.

24. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [[22]] 18, wherein the first queue is maintained by a device driver in a computer memory and the second queue is implemented in a controller of the I/O device.

25. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the controller comprises a storage controller and the I/O device comprises a storage device.

26. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim [[22]] 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining whether there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue after determining that the number of I/O requests in the second queue exceeds the first queue, wherein I/O requests from the first queue are only coalesced if there are at least two I/O requests in the first queue.

27. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

transmitting one I/O request from the first queue if the number of queued I/O requests in the second queue does not exceed the threshold.

28. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the device comprises a computer readable medium or a hardware component.